

## CLAIMS

1. A method in a wireless communications network, the  
5 method comprising:

transmitting a radio resource assignment to a wireless  
communications device;

transmitting radio resource assignment time-out information to  
the wireless communications device,

10 the radio resource assignment time-out information specifying  
a duration during which the radio resource assignment to the wireless  
communications device remains valid after the wireless communications  
device discontinues communication on the radio resource assigned.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, transmitting the radio resource  
assignment time-out information includes transmitting at least one bit  
specifying one of a plurality of radio resource assignment time-out intervals  
to the wireless communications device.

20 3. The method of Claim 1, transmitting the radio resource  
assignment and the radio resource assignment time-out information in a  
single message.

4. The method of Claim 1,  
transmitting the radio resource assignment includes  
transmitting a data channel assignment;

the radio resource assignment time-out information specifying  
5 a duration during which data transmission by the wireless communications  
device may be discontinued on the data channel assigned without loss of  
the data channel assignment.

10 5. The method of Claim 4, transmitting the data channel  
assignment and the data channel assignment time-out information in a  
common message.

15 6. The method of Claim 1,  
indicating the time-out duration of the radio resource  
assignment to the wireless communications device in terms of frames.

20 7. The method of Claim 1,  
selecting the radio resource assignment time-out duration  
based on at least one of a wireless communications network load and a  
wireless communications network load variability.

8. The method of Claim 1, selecting the radio resource assignment duration based on at least one of reserve power of the wireless communications device and quality of service of the wireless communications device.

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9. The method of Claim 1,  
transmitting the radio resource assignment and the radio resource assignment time-out information in response to a radio resource assignment request from the wireless communications device.

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10. A method in a wireless communications device, the method comprising:

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receiving a radio resource assignment;  
receiving radio resource assignment time-out information,  
the radio resource assignment time-out information indicating a duration during which the radio resource assignment is valid after the wireless communications device discontinues communicating on the assigned radio resource.

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11. The method of Claim 10,

(5)

receiving the radio resource assignment in response to a  
request,

communicating on the radio resource assigned,

discontinuing communication in the radio resource assigned,

5 resuming communications on the radio resource assigned  
within the radio resource assignment time-out duration without requesting  
a new radio resource assignment.

10 12. The method of Claim 11,

resuming communications on the radio resource assigned at a  
data rate not greater than a data rate occurring when the communication  
was discontinued.

15 13. The method of Claim 10,

receiving the radio resource assignment in response to a  
request,

communicating on the radio resource assigned,

20 discontinuing communications on the radio resource assigned,

requesting a new radio resource assignment if data  
communications are not resumed within the radio resource assignment  
time-out duration.

14. The method of Claim 10, beginning the duration when the wireless communications device discontinues communication on the radio resource assigned.

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15. The method of Claim 10,  
requesting the radio resource assignment,  
receiving the radio resource assignment in response to the  
request, the radio resource assignment including a data channel assignment,  
10 transmitting on the channel assigned,  
discontinuing transmission on the channel assigned,  
resuming transmission on the channel assigned within the  
radio resource assignment time-out duration without requesting a new  
radio resource assignment,  
15 requesting a new radio resource assignment if transmission is  
not resumed on the channel assigned within the radio resource assignment  
time-out duration.

20 16. The method of Claim 10, selecting transmission times based  
on the radio resource assignment time-out information.

17. The method Claim 10, avoiding deep fade by selecting transmission times based on the radio resource assignment time-out information

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18. A message for transmission from a wireless communications network to a wireless communications device, the message comprising:

at least one bit,

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the at least one bit a radio resource time-out interval bit,

the radio resource time-out interval bit specifying a duration during which a radio resource assignment is valid after a wireless communications device to which the radio resource is assigned discontinues communicating on the assigned radio resource.

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19. The message of Claim 18,

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the at least one radio resource time-out interval bit specifying a duration during which a data channel assignment is valid after a wireless communications device to which the data channel is assigned discontinues communicating on the assigned data channel.

20. The message of Claim 19, the message is a radio resource assignment message including a channel assignment.

5                   21. The message of Claim 20, the radio resource assignment message includes a data rate assignment.